



Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

February 26, 2014

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake County Planning and Community Development Office conference room in Painesville, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Allen, Alexander, Bodnar, Bruckman (alt for Martin), Cain, Gilmer, Klco, Landeg, Martin, Reichard, Scruggs (alt. for Cardina), Welch, and Ms. Quinn-Hopkins. Staff present: Mr. Boyd and Ms. Myers.

Visitors attending were Chris Werronen of Soldiers to Sawyers-Vets Jobs, Ralph Sidley of Painesville Township Park Board, who wanted to bring the Soldiers to Sawyers-Vets Jobs organization to the members' attention, and Peter Zahirsky of the Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Peter Zahirsky was welcomed. He has been at the Lake Port and Economic Development Authority as Coastal Manager since December through a grant from The Cleveland Foundation. He graduated from Cleveland State in December of 2012 and was a licensed attorney with a certificate in Real Estate Development and Finance. He previously worked in the Greater Cleveland Partnership and Cuyahoga County doing economic development and in a private law firm for a while. He has spent the past couple months trying to meet people in order to get a history of the Lake County Coastal Plan to identify the parts that are in need of attention and to get an idea of where to begin to generate more interest in it.

MINUTES

Mr. Welch moved to approve the August 28, 2013 minutes as submitted and Mr. Scruggs seconded the motion.

Eleven voted "Aye".
Mr. Bodnar and Mr. Allen abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Madison Township – Stanton Park, Madison Township Park Updates

Mr. Bodnar did not bring anything from the Trustees table to the members' attention as he had only been working at the Township as Administrator for three days.

Willoughby Osborne Park Trails Project Funding

Osborne Park was not a priority site in the Plan but did contribute initially. They have since taken steps within the City to develop a Master Plan for the Park. That Plan was completed last year. It contains some trail improvement and a future pier improvement.

Marketing to the Public Officials in the Lake County Communities

Mr. Boyd continues to visit and meet with various local officials and some newly elected public officials. When we get new leadership involved in our coastal communities, he feels part of his due diligence is to get out and educate them on where we are at, how we got there, where we are planning to go, and what their role could be. Mr. Boyd continues to do this almost on a daily basis with a lot more emphasis on the Port and Economic Development Authority. He is looking forward to help from Mr. Zahirsky in the future.

Updating the Coastal Plans

One of the things that Messrs. Rantala, Zahirsky and Boyd have talked about is whether it is time to look at updating the Coastal Development Plan. When asked what he thought might be achievable this year, Mr. Zahirsky said roadway striping and a few other projects are being considered. He has met with Mr. Ron Graham of the General Health District regarding the trailways connectivity initiative with the desire to see bike trails and activities in the linkage at the beach in Fairport. They are also seriously looking at the channel in the City of Mentor and are hoping to get something going on that this year. He is currently reviewing the Army Corps' report on it. They will be meeting with people regarding the Mentor Harbor Channel on March 10. He said it continues to be a hot-button issue and is hopeful that some resources could be allocated to get that project going.

The Chairman wanted to gauge what this Committee's commitment was on the need to take another look at the coastal plans. Is it time to take the Plan out, spend some dollars and begin to revise it based on the kind of new rules and regulations, take things that have been accomplished out of the document, and look to a consultant to work on an update?

A reminder was made that Kent State University had expressed an interest in helping to update the project and could possibly add this to their architecture curriculum for next year which would provide some fresh ideas from the younger perspective. Mr. Boyd said approaching them with the architectural side was a good idea and he would be willing to run with that thought process.

We initially approached this initiative as a regional effort to get a voice going to the U.S. Army Corps. Mr. Cain thought it might be a good idea to invite them to a meeting or two along the way. He was a part of the Geneva-on-the-Lake project and had told them about some of the things this Committee was doing. He questioned if it would be all right to disseminate some information to them. Maybe it would lead to a coastal approach for the whole northeast part of the State.

From the County's landfill through Perry Park Lane Rd. with the exception of some residential lots, there is upwards of 600 acres of public property. When Lake Metroparks is done programming here, a lot of people will be brought into this area for birding, hiking and trails. This was something that wasn't even on our radar when the initial plan was done, which was initially a mixed-use or industrial type of long-term vision. Now it has completely changed and needs to be re-examined from surrounding land uses to traffic patterns.

The Fairport Port Authority is looking into developing a plan for their property. They are not seeing any movement with that property and the Village Administration wants to do something with that property to get it up to snuff.

It was suggested that the Fairport Port Authority was looking to do something other than what was done in the past. It was suggested that they could possibly have a Lake Erie Extension-type situation where students could go, like a research center, where they could be given an office and maybe coordinate some activities for travel tourism or development of coastal ideas or something to do with the lakefront. This would get the youth to have a stake in this whole process.

It was also suggested that this might be a great opportunity for scientific research to do studies about Lake Erie similar to what is being done by Ohio State at the stone lab. Although it is questionable that Ohio State would want to have two labs on Lake Erie, there is a building that has enough space that could be committed to classrooms.

Mr. Allen said he was on the Lake Erie Commission for the State of Ohio. He suggested Mr. Scruggs write a request to the Commission concerning this. He thought he needed to announce what they had in mind to see if that matches the Commission statement. Mr. Scruggs can contact Mr. Allen for help.

Mr. Boyd made a statement that he was hearing from the members that it would be worth having himself, Peter and Mark look into the Plan to determine if it is worth giving it a quick revision.

Mr. Gilmer said Lake Erie College doesn't normally get into this type of study as opposed to Kent.

Mr. Boyd stated that Terri Schwartz, a staff member at that point, helped to get us moving on the current Coastal Plan and is now the Executive Director at the KSU Urban Design Center. He will contact her.

NEW BUSINESS

New Coastal Management Position at the Lake County Port & Economic Development Authority

Mr. Zahirsky, Coastal Manager for the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority, had business cards available for the members.

Fairport Harbor Village Letter of Support

The Village is looking for a letter of support. At the "V" as you are coming into Fairport by the old Bait & Tackle Shop and an old Sohio Station, they expressed an interest to get funding to bring the facility down as part of their revitalization strategy coming into the Village and continuing up East Street. A new bridge is going in this year wide enough for bike lanes. The letter will be sent out tomorrow if all agreed. No one objected.

Community Updates:

Fairport Harbor Port Authority – Michael Scruggs – On Granger Road and Canal, there is a beautiful suspension bridge. Part of our railroad trussell is in the River and it would be a great place for the bikeway to come from the Headlands side over to the Fairport side without having to go all the way up and around Richmond Street. There may not be enough sewer line to go under the River or enough

money for a multi-purpose bridge to go across the River on the old railroad trestles, but maybe there is enough money for a combined use for pedestrian and bicycle traffic only.

One of the issues in the original plan was that there were sailboats that would need to get through.

N. Perry Village – Mayor Ed Klco representing Mark Cicero – They had mailed a survey to the residents talking about opening the park to the public. The survey came back with a large amount (65-70%) in favor of keeping it private. They are in mediation with the people east of them, a lawsuit has been filed, and he is not able to go into too much detail, but they have their insurance company trying to find a solution to this problem and a fix. They have spent over \$900,000 in the last five years on dredging.

Painesville Twp. Park District – Mark Alexander & Ralph Sidley – They have been losing their retaining wall at Township Park and it keeps getting worse. They have been looking at ways to alleviate the situation by possibly putting in a retaining wall. Lake Metroparks agreed to put good money into the Park if we shore up the beach. They are thinking about possibly putting in armorstone, a new pier and upgrading the existing pier and facilities. We have a nice rendering. The next step is to see if we can get some public grants, possibly from ODNR. It looks as though these plans are moving forward.

Mr. Boyd suggested the Port Authority might be able to help on that forefront with some possible financing or by doing some research for the Park Board.

Perry Township – Mark Welch - Everything is status quo. They are still trying to figure out what to do with the mansion. We have to see how it unfolds.

Madison Township – Lee Bodnar – As he has only been on the job for three days, he did not have a report. He should have something by next meeting.

County Engineer – Bruce Landeg - They are a little short of funding at Stanton Park to do the public side areas but probably have enough for a design. We were about to hire an engineering consultant when it was discovered there were not enough dollars to complete the project in a ten-year window. A funding plan has been developed so the public side can go forward, but the private side partnership is a problem.

Lake County Development Council/N. Perry Village Council - Larry Reichard - He had nothing to add.

Lake County Port & Economic Development Authority – Harry Allen– There has been a new bus wrap advertising campaign developed to be used on some of the commuter express buses going to downtown Cleveland.

Mr. Boyd explained that the Port, Visitors' Bureau and Laketrans have been a part of putting together a marketing campaign on some of the commuter express buses that go downtown to Cleveland. Five of those buses will have the wineries, the beaches, the Captains, the health care, the manufacturing in Lake County displayed on them for a whole year. We should start to see those on the highway around the first of April.

Lake County Development Council/ N. Perry Village – Larry Reichard - There is nothing to report.

Lake County Port Coastal Manager – Peter Zahirsky - He asked for members to reach out to help him get up to speed so he can understand what is going on in the communities and how he could be of assistance. Collaboration is the key to making anything happen, especially in terms of finding funding.

Eastlake City Council & River Committee – Cindy Quinn-Hopkins – Things are moving forward with the new Mayor and the law director that are involved with economic development and our riverside project. It has been very productive. We are going to lose CEI, which is going to be a terrible tax burden. She will see how Mr. Zahirsky might be able to help with their waterfront development.

Mr. Allen said this could be an opening for possible brownfield development.

Eastlake Port Authority – Mark Cain – They are working with both Mayors to try to get some trees for our little park area. They are continuing the North Island property proposition. Anchorage Island's toe protection is holding up well. One slight problem was that it diverted some of the water against the landowners and undermined some of their pier that had been encroaching into the River. The Eastlake Port Authority donated several thousand dollars for armorstone to reset their toes in the River. It has really helped with the dredging problem. Engineering wise, it went very well.

City of Mentor – Bob Martin & Abe Bruckman – We are doing something similar to promote the BeachFest in July and the NOACA Plan. Ron Graham just completed a meeting yesterday where they started the process to select a consultant to be hired to do the sustainability plan. Ideas that are being discussed around the table here today should be part of this process. Part of the process is to try to find and identify what and where the critical linkages are so the people can have some sort of shared recreational traveling network. Putting this plan in place will help us to get the dollars to note some of these things.

Mr. Bruckman was asked to fill in the Committee about the March 10 meeting. Given the littoral drift and the prevailing currents and sand dumped into that channel, there is a significant amount of expenditure to dredge it. At the same time because it is oriented in that direction, the sheet pile, walls and the baffles that are installed take a beating. So those walls are starting to fail as well. We need to see what can be done on a short-term basis. Although you cannot say that will happen, there is a chance a catastrophic failure could happen in this wall. We need to reach out to the Corps because losing the channel could cause a substantial hardship for hundreds of boaters in Mentor-on-the-Lake, Mentor, and the Yacht Club marina.

Mentor had contracted an engineering firm to take a look at the marina per Mr. Martin. They currently operate the rental marina with 465 wetslips. We are looking at its future as to what we need to do to rehab it and what we may have to do as alternatives to make that marina stay viable in the future. We are waiting on a timeline for the study.

Inside the Department, natural resources specs specialists are working on an invasive species removal plan for the Lagoons both in the woods and along the coastal area. Additionally, they are seeking to clear out the phragmites aligned with the pending proposed replacement of the sewer line interceptor that also transverses the Marsh. They will not know until after the next or the next two meetings if their efforts have been successful.

Mr. Klco would welcome receiving pictures from anyone who may have experienced beach erosion happening near them in the last year or two, especially west of N. Perry's development. Anything would be appreciated in support of the Village's development.

Mr. Cain presented the idea of starting a central information collection agency or central point where people can go and find out coastal development information such as what contractors have been used on coastal projects and what successes and/or problems they have had with their projects.

Mr. Boyd said he has a lot of that information and, eventually, it will be at the Port. He has cost estimates and engineering estimates on the Madison project that may be more applicable because the N. Perry project was much more significant. Mr. Zahirsky would be happy to help him pull that together.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 28. Location is to be determined.

Adjournment

Mr. Cain moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Alexander seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.